

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

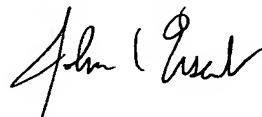
Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 12, 14, 15, and 17 are amended for informalities. Prompt examination and allowance in due course are respectfully solicited.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **John C. Eisenhart**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**Date: November 25, 2003**

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